

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated September 14, 2004, the Examiner has objected to the drawings, drawings filed on February 9, 2004, and Claims 1-8. Also, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 6-7 ([sic] 6-8) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Identified copies of new formal drawings are attached hereto for Examiner's approval per the new guidelines set for Amendments. By this paper, Claims 1-8 have been amended to more particularly point out that which the Applicants regard as the invention. For the reasons set forth fully below, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8, as amended, are allowable.

Claims 1-8 stand as being objected to because of certain specified informalities. Particularly, the Examiner objects to the reference numerals included in the claim recitations, and an improper wording found in Claim 3. By this paper, the reference numerals have been removed from the claims, and in Claim 3, "for" has been changed to "form". Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these objections are no longer proper, and should now be removed.

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 ([sic] 6-8) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ito, et al. The Ito, et al. patent discloses marks on a sheet to enable proper sheet posture (orientation) to be determined for duplex printing. However, it does not show, or in any way teach, print media registration during duplex printing, as now specifically recited in independent Claims 1 and 6, as amended. This is an important aspect of Applicants' invention in that it deals with image-to-image registration on a print media. "Registration" is particularly defined in the specification as related to location of print media on a media transport to properly provide image-to-image location during printing. This is significantly different than just determining the posture (i.e., side and transport direction) of a printing media sheet. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention patentably distinguishes from the disclosure of the cited reference, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper. Accordingly, amended independent Claims 1 and 6, and amended Claims 2-4, 7, and 8, dependent directly or indirectly thereon, should now be allowed.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito, et al. in view of Suga. The reference to Suga has been cited to show using a

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached two (2) sheets of formal drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-3. These formal drawing sheets for FIGS. 1 - 3 are being submitted to replace those currently on file.


Attachment: Two (2) Replacement Sheets (FIGS. 1 – 3).

mark to determine timing (only for in-track registration, not cross-track registration). Since the timing teachings of Suga have nothing to do with, and are irrelevant to, the above described posture determination of Ito, et al., the combination as proposed is respectfully considered to be improper. The Examiner's contention that the references provide motivation for the combination is merely an unfounded and improper conclusion in that they are directed to two entirely different and unrelated concepts. However, even if *arguendo* the combination is considered to be proper, registration as defined by Applicants and recited in Applicants' claimed invention is still not shown or taught by such combination. Accordingly, Applicants' invention would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the cited references, either individually or in any proper combination. Therefore, amended Claim 5 should now be allowed.

Applicants are not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

This Application is now believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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